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March 11, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Paul Neidig (Poseyville, IN-North Posey) played in every game as reserve center for the Panthers this winter.

A 6-8, 210 sophomore, Neidig averaged 4.6 points and 3.1 rebounds for EIU which finished with a 13-18 overall record and second place in the Mid-Continent with an 8-4 mark.

He shot 49.5% from the field overall but in the last 14 games he hit at a 65.9% (29-44) clip. Also he committed only 13 turnovers in 503 minutes, the best ratio of the top nine players.

"There's always tremendous progress between a freshman and sophomore season, and Paul epitomizes this," said Coach Rick Samuels.

"He improved throughout the year but in the last three weeks he played with as much confidence as he had all year. For his size, he has good quickness and when he concentrates is a good rebounder, particularly on the offensive boards.

"He realizes his strengths and weaknesses and plays within the structure of his physical talents. We'd like to see him add upper body strength, and work on improving his finesse on the offensive end of the court. We also may move him out away from the basket so that the center has to come out after him because Paul's passing from the post position has also improved this year."

The Panthers began the year 0-12 but bounced back to win 13 of the final 19 and surge to second place in the AMCU. EIU shot 50% from the field in all games, and 52.5% in conference action.